**Increasing incidents of cruelty to animals**

1340. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act or enact a fresh law; in view of the increasing incidence of cruelty on animals in the name of religion, customs or traditions; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir, The Government has proposed to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

(b) The proposal is under examination by the Group of Ministers.

**Jury of Dr. Ambedkar International Award**

1341. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minisier of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jury of Dr. Ambedkar International Award constituted during 1997-98 in pursuance to the provisions of the "Code of Procedure" of this Award was dissolved by her Ministry in May, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether the provisions of the "Code of Procedure" of this Award provide any such powers for dissolution of the Jury prematurely;

(d) if so, what are those provisions and the circumstances under which the Jury can be dissolved prematurely; and

(e) whether the dissolution of the Jury has not affected the time schedule for finalization of this Award?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (e) No Sir. Do not arise.

**ST Certificates to persons in Scheduled Areas**

1342. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are some scheduled areas in the country where persons, by birth, are getting Scheduled Tribe Certificates without mentioning their castes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the grounds mentioned by these people for getting Scheduled Tribe Certificates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No such case has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Question does not arise.

**National Council for elder persons**

1343. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI ANANTA SETHI:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a National Council for elder persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the basic objectives and composition of such a Council;

(c) whether the Council will construct old age home in every District in the country;

(d) if there is no proposal to set up such a Council, the reasons therefor; and